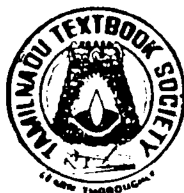


USEFUL STORIES
FOR
THE YOUNG

STANDARD VI

(SUPPLEMENTARY READER)

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Tamil Nadu Textbook Society
MADRAS

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CONTENTS

A NOTE TO THE TEACHER

This book contains seven stories for the children. They have been written in very simple language using the teaching items learnt in Standards III to V. The children will be able to read and understand them by themselves.

Of course some new words outside the given vocabulary have also been used whenever the context requires such words. A list of new words arranged in alphabetical order is given at the end of the book.

Exercises to test the comprehension of the children have also been included at the end of each lesson.

The book is so planned that interesting events in the lives of great men are given to highlight a few noble qualities which have to be instilled in the minds of the children.

To make your children capable of honesty is the beginning of Education —JOHN RUSKIN

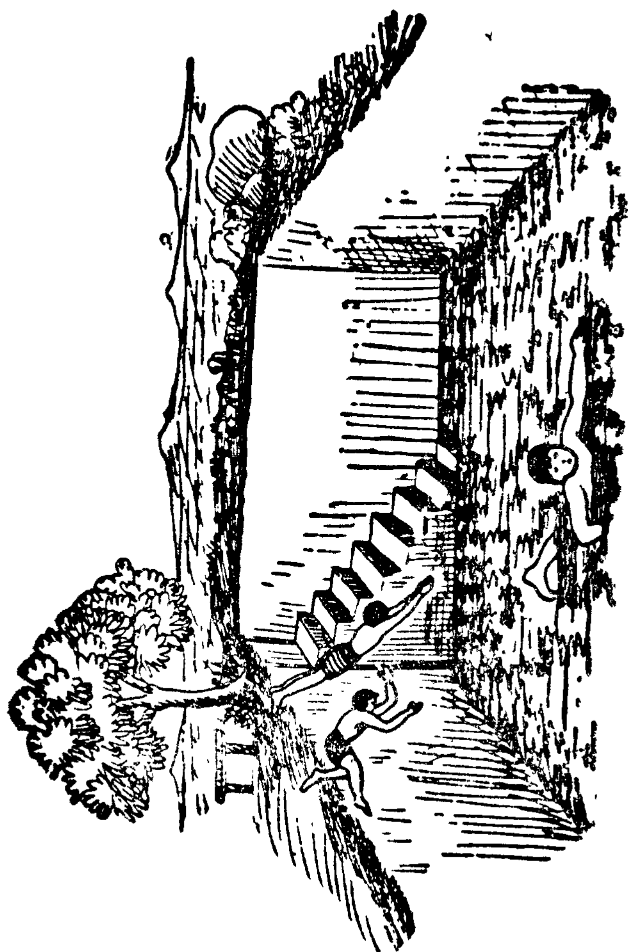
I. BE BRAVE

The Prime Minister of India gives awards to the brave children every year. These children also take part in the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. In January, 1981 the Prime Minister gave awards to sixteen children. These children have acted bravely in times of danger. The Prime Minister said to them, " Be brave and bold and make the country happy and strong."

Perumal was one among those sixteen children. He is fourteen years old. He lives in a village in Dharmapuri district in Tamilnadu. Dear children, do you wish to know about his brave act ?

One day Perumal went to a big well in the village to have a swim. Two of his friends also went with him. Perumal and one of his friends went into the water. His other friend, Sankaran, did not know swimming. So he did not go into the well. He stood at the edge of the well and watched the other two swim.

After some time, the other friend came out of the well. He walked a few metres away from it. Suddenly he came running to jump into the well. He did not see Sankaran standing near the edge.



He dashed against Sankaran and both of them fell into the well. Poor Sankaran did not know how to swim. When he fell into the water, he began to drown. His life was in danger.

Perumal was a brave boy. He wanted to save his friend. He did not lose time. He went swimming towards Sankaran and caught hold of him. He brought him out with great difficulty.

Perumal was a Scout. So he gave first aid to Sankaran and saved his life. The people in the village were happy to hear about Perumal's brave act.

Our Prime Minister gave an award to Perumal for his bravery. The villagers also gave him some rewards. Dear children, you should also be brave like Perumal and help others in times of danger.

EXERCISES

I. Answer the following in one or two sentences each.

1. *Why do some children get awards?*
2. *Where does Perumal live?*
3. *Why did not Sankaran go into the well?*
4. *How did Sankaran fall into the well?*
5. *Who saved Sankaran?*

6. *Are you a Scout?*
7. *Have you ever given first aid to anyone?*

II. Complete the following sentences suitably:

(*e.g.: Some children get awards because ....*

Answer: Some children get awards because they act bravely in times of danger.)

1. *Sankaran did not go into the well because ....*
2. *Sankaran fell into the well because ....*
3. *Perumal gave Sankaran first aid because. ....*

III. A few sentences are given below. Arrange them in proper order:

1. *Sankaran fell into the well.*
2. *Perumal went with his friends to the well to swim.*
3. *Perumal saved his friend.*
4. *The other friend dashed against Sankaran.*
5. *Sankaran was standing at the edge of the well.*

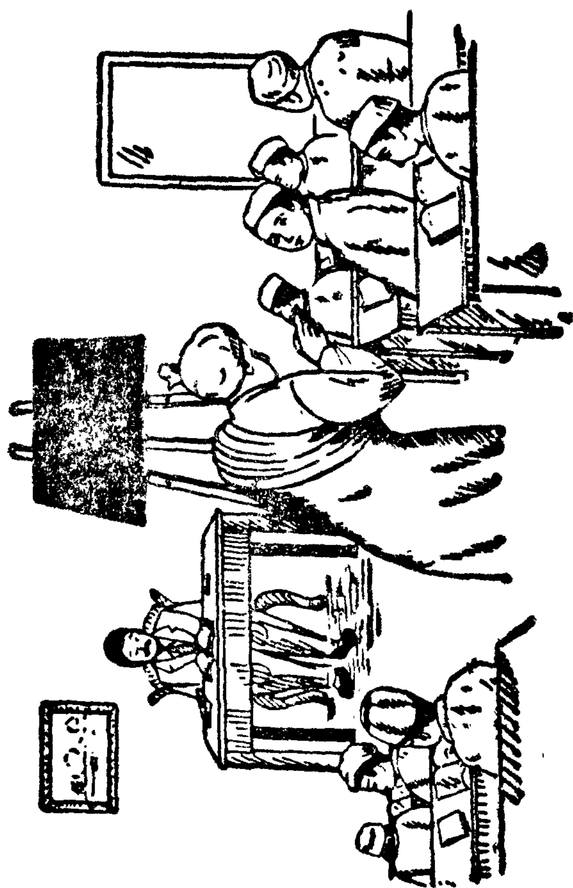
2. BE HONEST

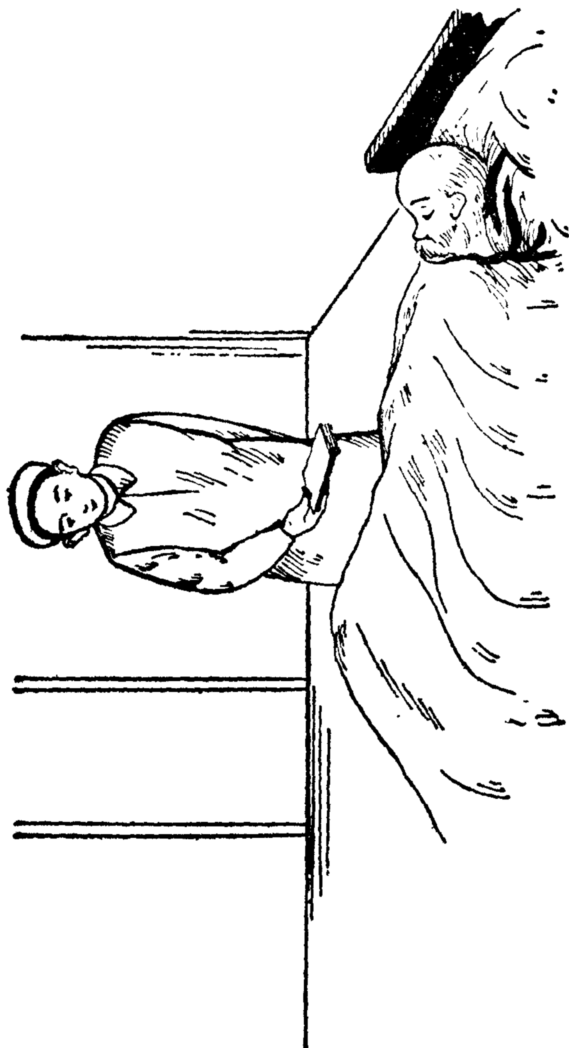
We have a holiday on October 2 every year. It is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. It is Gandhi Jayanthi. Gandhiji won freedom for our country from the British rule. He is the Father of the Nation.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi went to school at an early age. He was not good at studies then. He was very weak in spelling.

One day the Inspector of Schools visited the school. He said to the teacher, "Please give the class a spelling test." The teacher gave the test. Mohandas spelt the word "kettle" wrongly. The teacher was sorry. He thought, "Mohandas is not doing well in the test. The Inspector will be angry with me." So he made signs to Mohandas to copy from the next boy. Mohandas was a very honest boy. He did not like copying. So he refused to copy.

When Mohandas was twelve years old, he got into bad company. He needed money to spend on these evil friends. But how to get it? He began to steal money from his house.





You know that Gandhiji was very honest. He did not like stealing. He felt sorry for his actions. He wanted to tell everything to his father and ask his forgiveness. But he was afraid of talking to his father in person. So he wrote a letter to his father and gave it to him. Gandhiji's father read the letter and wept. Gandhiji was very sad to see his father weep. He said to his father, " I promise, I will never steal again."

Dear children, these two stories from the life of Gandhiji tell you that he was very honest. You should also be as honest as Gandhiji.

EXERCISES

I. Answer the following in one or two sentences **each**:

1. *Why do we have a holiday on October 2?*
2. *Why do we call Gandhiji the Father of the Nation?*
3. *Who visited Gandhiji's school?*
4. *What did he ask the teacher to do?*
5. *Why did the teacher want Gandhiji to copy?*
6. *Did Gandhiji copy? Why?*
7. *Why did Gandhiji steal money from his house?*
8. *Did Gandhiji feel sorry for his action?*
9. *How did he tell his father about his action?*

II. Say which ending is correct:

[e.g: Gandhiji won freedom for our country

(a) from South Africans.

(b) from the British rule.

Answer: Gandhiji won freedom for our country from the British rule.]

1. *October 2 is called*

   (a) the Republic Day.

   (b) Gandhi Jayanthi.

2. *The Inspector asked the teacher*

   (a) to make the boys stand up.

   (b) to give a spelling test.

3. *Gandhiji wrote a letter to his father because*

   (a) he was afraid of talking to him.

   (b) his father was deaf.

III. Fill in the blanks choosing **one of the words given** in brackets:

1. *Gandhiji was weak in ....*
   (health, spelling, hearing)

2. *Gandhiji promised his **father to be** ....*
   (playful, cheerful, honest)



3. BE PUNCTUAL

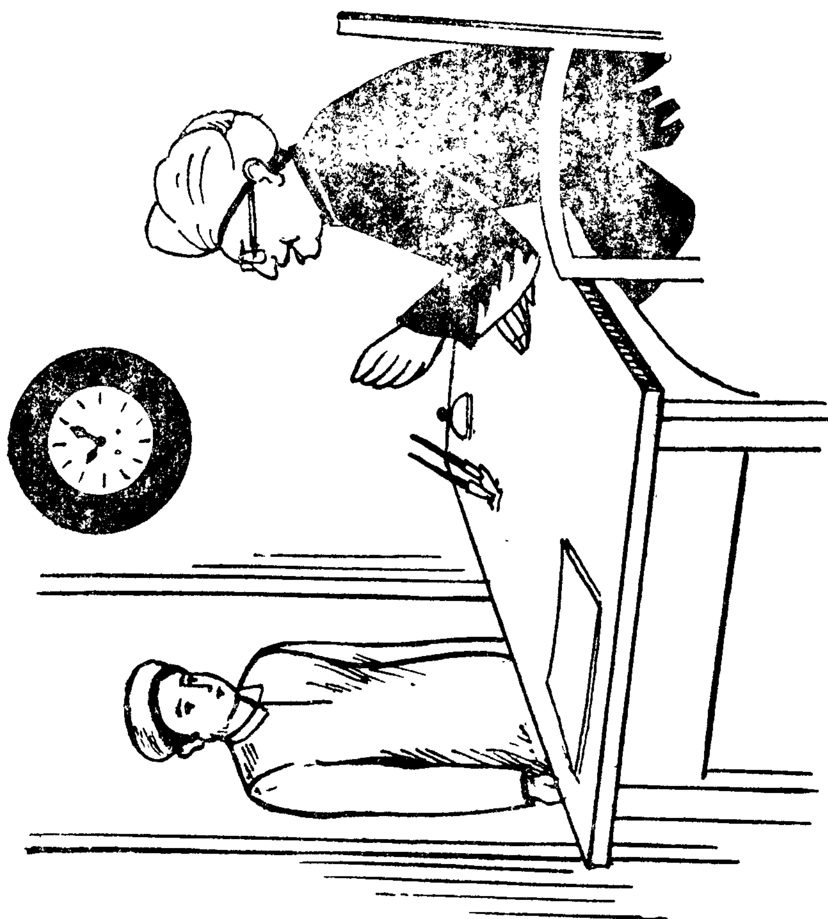
Dear children, I wish to tell you another story from the life of Mahatma Gandhi. You have read that Gandhiji was always honest. Gandhiji was also very punctual. He always did things at the right time.

When Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was in the seventh standard, Dorabji Gimi was his Headmaster. He was a strict man. The pupils liked him very much. Mr Gimi wanted the children to be healthy and strong. So he made gymnastics and cricket compulsory for boys.

Gandhiji did not like both. He was very shy. He did not like to mix with the other boys to play games. There was also another reason. Gandhiji's father was very ill at that time. So Gandhiji wanted to run home in the evenings to help his father. He found no time to play games.

One Saturday, Gandhiji had school in the morning. But there was a drill class at 4 o'clock. Gandhiji had to attend it.

Gandhiji had no watch with him. There were also clouds in the sky that afternoon. So he could



not find the correct time. When he went to school there were no boys there. The class was over. All the boys had left.

The next morning the Headmaster sent for him.

" Mohandas, why were you absent for the gymnastics class ? "

" I was not absent, Sir. I had no watch. So I came a little late."

" My boy, you are telling a lie."

" No, Sir, I am telling only the truth."

" Anyway, you were not punctual. You have to pay a fine."

Gandhiji felt sad. The Headmaster was angry with him because he was late for the class. From that day onwards, Gandhiji was very punctual in life.

You should also be punctual. You should not make others wait for you.

EXERCISES

I. Answer the following in one or two sentences each:

1. *Who was Gandhiji's Headmaster ?*
2. *Why did the Headmaster make gymnastics compulsory ?*

3. *Why did not Gandhiji like games?*
4. *Why was Gandhiji late for the drill class?*
5. *Did the Headmaster believe his words?*
6. *What punishment did the Headmaster give Gandhiji?*
7. *What lesson did Gandhiji learn?*

II. Given below are the beginnings and endings of sentences. Match them.

Beginnings	Endings
Mr Gimi was the Headmaster	*to make the pupils healthy and strong.*
The Headmaster punished Gandhiji	*when Gandhiji was in the seventh standard.*
Mr Gimi made gymnastics compulsory	*because he was not punctual.*

4. BE KIND

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of our country. He was born on November 14, 1889 at Anand Bhavan in Allahabad. He loved children and liked to be with them. So we celebrate his birthday as Children's Day.

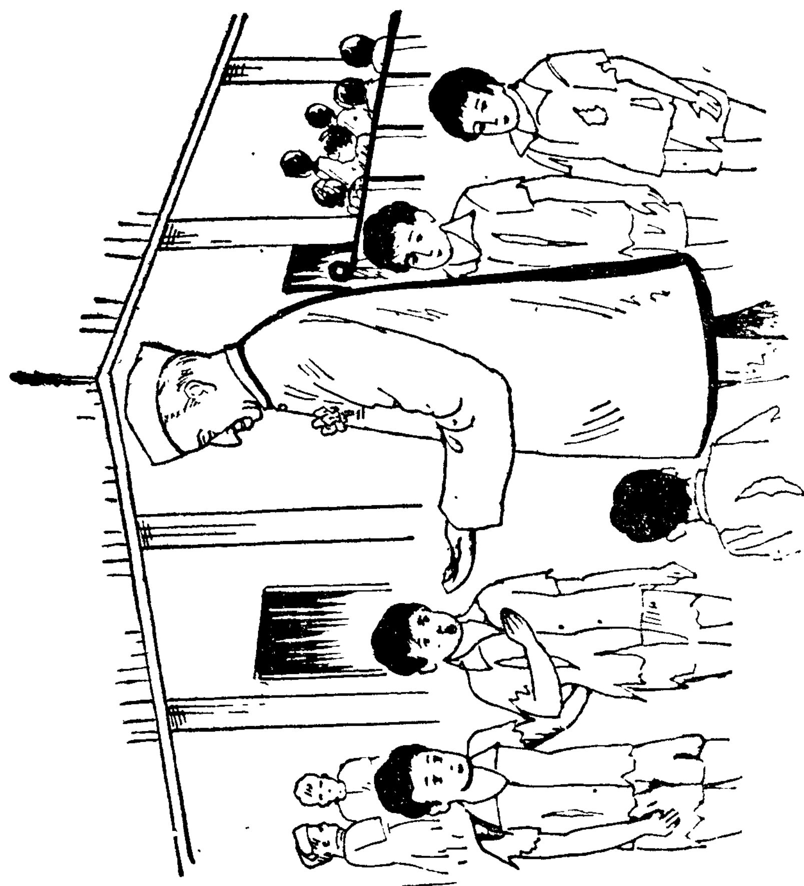
Jawaharlal Nehru was very kind to children. Once, when he was the Prime Minister, he visited Anand Bhavan. Many people were waiting there to meet him. Some boys were also standing there. Nehru came out of his room. He saw the boys. They were wearing torn clothes. They were poor. Nehru went straight to them.

" Do you wish to say anything ? " he asked.

The boys looked at each other. They wanted to say something to Nehru. But they did not know how to say it.

" Come along, what is the matter ? " Nehru asked again.

Then one of the boys said to Nehru, " Panditji, we are very poor. Our books get wet during rains. We are not able to buy bags to keep our books."



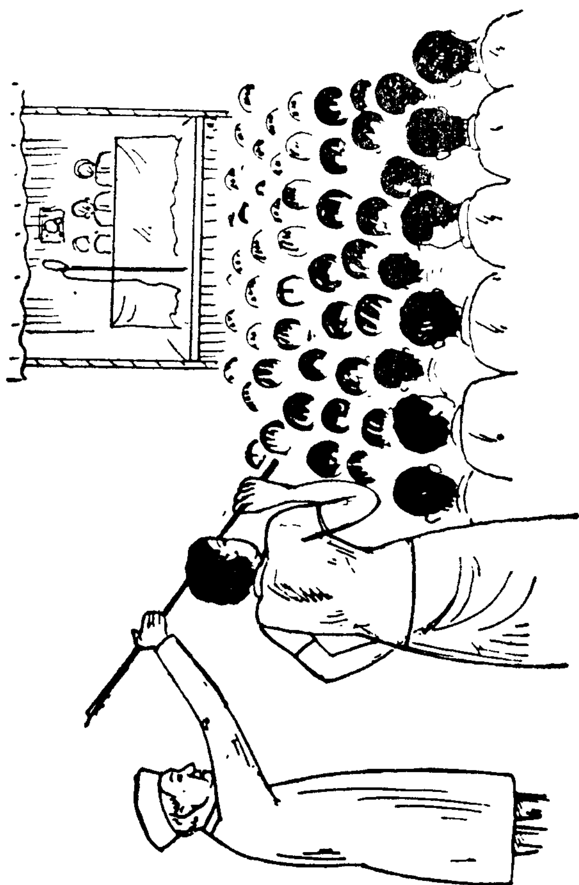
"Really! Is that so?" Nehru asked with kindness.

When Jawaharlal went back to Delhi, he bought some canvas bags and raincoats. He sent them to the boys at Allahabad. As Prime Minister, he had many big problems to worry about. Still he was able to find time to look after the little needs of children. He loved them so much.

Once Nehru visited Madras. He spoke at a public meeting in the evening. There was a huge crowd. The policemen were not able to make the people sit. There was noise everywhere. Nehru could not speak. Then someone took a cane, beat the people with it and made them sit down.

Nehru was always kind to the people. He did not like the man beating them with a cane. He ran to him and took away the cane. People saw this. They became silent. Then Nehru started his speech.

Dear children, what do you learn from these two stories? You should also be kind to others and help them when they suffer.



EXERCISES

I. Answer the following in one or two sentences each:

1. *Who was the first Prime Minister of India?*
2. *When was Nehru born?*
3. *What did the boys say to Nehru?*
4. *What did Nehru send the boys?*
5. *Was Nehru able to speak at the meeting?*
6. *How did the man make the people sit down?*
7. *Did Nehru like the man's action? Why?*
8. *Do you like the man's action?*

II. Say which ending is correct:

1. *November 14 is called*
   (*a*) *the Sarvodaya Day.*
   (*b*) *the Children's Day.*
2. *The boys said to Nehru that*
   (*a*) *their books got wet during rains.*
   (*b*) *they had no books.*
3. *Nehru sent the boys bags and raincoats because*
   (*a*) *the boys asked for them.*
   (*b*) *Nehru was kind to them.*
4. *The man beat the people with a cane because*
   (*a*) *they did not sit down.*
   (*b*) *he did not like the people.*

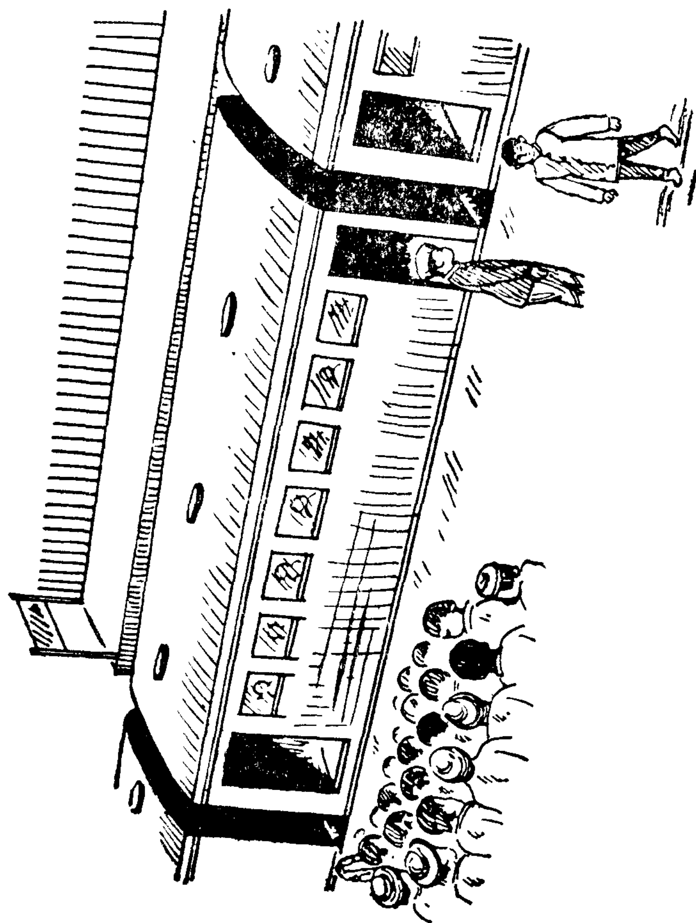
5. BE HUMBLE

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India. After his death in 1964, Lal Bahadur Sastri became the Prime Minister. He was a very humble man. So the people loved him.

Lal Bahadur was born in a village near Varanasi on October 2, 1904. When he was two years old, his father died. His family became very poor. His school was nine kilometres away. Lal Bahadur walked to school every day.

Lal Bahadur worked hard. In 1947 he became a minister in Uttar Pradesh. Even then he was very humble. Once he paid a visit to Agra. A lot of important people were waiting for him at the platform with big garlands. But Lal Bahadur got off the train and walked out of the station quietly. Do you know why he did so? He did not like people to treat him as a great man!

Lal Bahadur was once the Minister for Railways. There was a railway accident at that time. He felt very sad. He did not like to continue as the minister. He resigned. He wanted to go home. There were many government cars



at the office. But Lal Bahadur did not use the office car. He went home on his bicycle !

Lal Bahadur always used very simple clothes. Once he went to England on some important work. He had no woollen clothes with him. He did not like to buy new ones. Pandit Nehru found it out at the airport. He gave his woollen coat to Lal Bahadur and asked him to use it !

Dear children, you have read about Jawaharlal Nehru. He was also very humble. One day he went to his office. His friends saw him wearing a torn shoe.

" Panditji, you are the Prime Minister. But you wear a torn shoe ! " they said.

Nehru looked at his torn shoe and smiled.

" Yes, friends. I am the Prime Minister of only a poor country. I can wear only torn shoes," he replied.

Dear children, you should always be humble.

EXERCISES

I. Answer the following in one or two sentences each :

1. *When did Jawaharlal Nehru die ?*
2. *Who was the second Prime Minister of India ?*

3. *Where was Lal Bahadur born?*
4. *Who waited for him at Agra station?*
5. *Why did Lal Bahadur walk out quietly?*
6. *Why did Nehru give him his coat?*
7. *What did Nehru's friends tell him about his shoes?*
8. *What did Nehru reply?*

II. Say whether the following are true or false:

1. *Lal Bahadur was born in a rich family.*
2. *He was always very proud.*
3. *People waited to welcome him at Agra station.*
4. *Lal Bahadur asked Nehru to give him a coat.*
5. *One day Nehru went to his office wearing a torn shoe..*

6. BE DUTIFUL

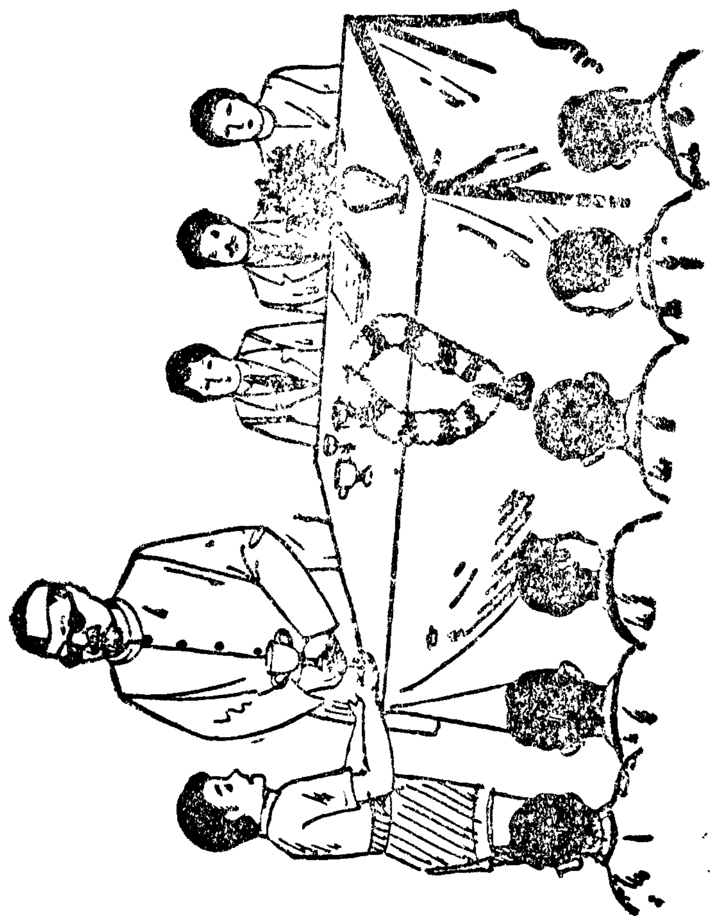
"The whole of Bharat is my home — its people are my family. The people have chosen to make me the head of the family for some time."

Do you know who the speaker was? He was the third President of India — Dr Zakir Husain. This great son of India was once a teacher. He started a school called Jamia Millia at Delhi.

Dr Zakir Husain loved children. Once his favourite daughter was very ill. On that day he presided over a function at a school. When he was giving away the prizes, he received a note. Dr Husain read it and kept it on the table He then made a speech. After that he went home. The note carried the news of the death of his daughter! People asked him why he did not go at once. Do you know what he replied?

"Yes, I could have gone. But the children would have become unhappy. It was my duty to give them the prizes," said Dr Husain.

Dear children, have you heard about Dr Rajendra Prasad? He was the first President of



India. When he was young, his elder brother wanted him to become a Collector. But Rajendra Prasad did not like the idea. He wanted to serve the people. He thought it was his duty.

In 1935 Dr Rajendra Prasad won the election. People said to him, "Babu, you have won the election. You should become the Chief Minister of Bihar."

"No, my friends," he replied. "My duty is to serve the poor people. They live in villages. I will go to the villages and serve them."

Dr Rajendra Prasad was not very healthy. He suffered from asthma. But he did not care. He lived with poor people and worked hard for them. Wasn't he dutiful?

Dear children, you should study well. That is your duty now.

EXERCISES

I. Answer the following in one or two sentences each :

1. *What was Dr Zakir Husain?*
2. *Which school did he start?*
3. *Dr Husain was giving away the prizes. What news did he receive then?*
4. *Why did he not go home at once?*

5. *What was Dr Rajendra Prasad ?*
6. *What did his elder brother want him to be?*
7. *Did Rajendra Prasad become the Chief Minister? Why?*

II. A few sentences are given below. Arrange them in proper order.

1. *Dr Husain received a note.*
2. *He was giving away the prizes.*
3. *Dr Husain presided over a function.*
4. *People learnt that his daughter was dead.*
5. *He read the note and placed it on the table.*
6. *His daughter was very ill.*

III. Say whether the following are true or false:

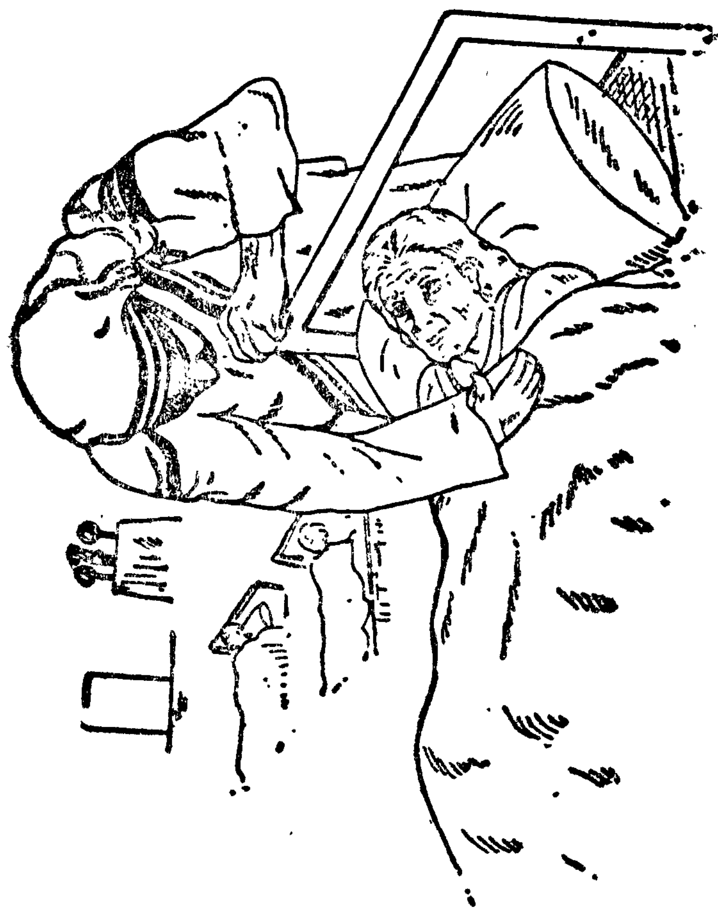
1. *Dr Husain was the first President of India.*
2. *Dr Husain started a school called Jamia Millia*
3. *Dr Husain was very dutiful.*
4. *Rajendra Prasad was once a doctor.*
5. *Rajendra Prasad became the Chief Minister of Bihar*

7. BE READY TO SERVE

Dear children, have you heard about Mother Teresa ? Mother Teresa was born in a large and happy family on August 27, 1910 in Yugoslavia. Even as a child, she wanted to help others. She became a nun at the age of eighteen. She came to Calcutta in 1929. She became a teacher in a convent. She was a good teacher and her pupils loved her. But she wanted to teach poor children. She started a school in a poor area in Calcutta with just five children. She taught them how to wash themselves and be clean.

One day Mother Teresa saw a woman lying in front of a hospital. The woman was ill and dying. The rats were eating her. Nobody cared for her. Mother Teresa was very sad at this. "It is a shame. A lot of poor people die on our city roads. We do not care for them," she said. She looked after the poor woman till she died the next day.

This small event made Mother Teresa think. There were hundreds of sick and dying people. They suffered without food and medicine. No one helped them. So she wanted to gather these people, help them and give them love. She started



the Nirmal Hriday Home in 1952. She brought the dying people, lepers and orphans to the Nirmal Hriday Home. She served them with kindness. She then started a home for lepers in Shantinagar near Calcutta. People admired Mother Teresa.

Mother Teresa has started such homes for the poor people in many places in India and also in a few other countries. " Money is no problem," she says. " God gives me money through people."

Mother Teresa got the Nobel Prize this year. Our government gave her the Nehru Peace Prize in 1971. Many other countries have also honoured her.

Dear children, you should learn to serve others and make them happy.

EXERCISES

I. **Answer the following in one or two sentences each.**

1. *Where was Mother Teresa born?*
2. *When did she become a nun?*
3. *When did she come to Calcutta?*
4. *What did she teach the poor children?*
5. *What did she see on the road one day?*
6. *How did Mother Teresa help her?*

7. *When did she start the Nirmal Hriday Home?*
8. *Why did she start the home?*
9. *Why did she start a home at Shantinagar?*
10. *Have you ever helped a sick person? How?*
11. *How many good qualities are mentioned in the book?*
12. *How many of these good qualities do you have?*

II. **A few sentences are given below. Arrange them in proper order.**

1. *Mother Teresa came to India in 1929.*
2. *She started the Nirmal Hriday Home in Calcutta*
3. *She started a school for poor children.*
4. *She saw a woman lying in front of a hospital*
5. *She became a teacher in a convent.*

III. **Fill in the blanks choosing one of the words given in brackets:**

1. *This year Mother Teresa got ....*

   (Nehru Peace Prize, the Nobel Prize, the Lenin Prize)

2. *When Mother Teresa came to India, she became a ....*

   (doctor, nun, teacher)

3. *Mother Teresa started the Nirmal Hriday Home to look after ....*

   (the rich, the dying, the educated)

LIST OF DIFFICULT WORDS

(*Number in brackets shows the lesson in which the word is first introduced.*)

admire (v)	(7)
airport	(5)
asthma	(6)
awards	(1)
cane	(4)
canvas	(4)
celebrate	(4)
company	(2)
compulsory	(3)
drown	(1)
edge	(1)
favourite	(6)
forgiveness	(2)
gymnastics	(3)
honour (v)	(7)
huge	(4)
humble	(5)
leper	(7)
medicine	(7)
nun	(7)
orphan	(7)
parade	(1)
prize	(6)
problem	(4)
punctual	(3)
raincoat	(4)
resign	(5)
reward	(1)
scout	(1)
signs	(2)
spelling	(2)
spelt	(2)
straight	(4)
strict	(3)
swim (n)	(1)
treat (v)	(5)
watch (v)	(1)
weep	(2)
wet	(4)
woollen	(5)